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SCIENCE

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FEDERAL FORESTRY¹

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THE part played by the nation in forestry must always be large. Here as in all other countries, the real development of forestry began when the government took up its practise. Even to-day some persons would leave the forests entirely to private owners; others insist that the public phases of forestry are altogether a state function and federal activities in this field uncalled for. Those who hold this view are usually either lukewarm concerning the need for forest conservation or opposed to restricting private activities.

National responsibility in forestry is perfectly clear-cut. There need be no confusion with an equally clear-cut responsibility of the states. And as to private forestry little of value has so far been done that has not been an outcome of public action through state or federal agencies, or both. It was the work of the federal government in placing its own forests under administration, its demonstration of fire protection and of conservative lumbering, its experimental and educational work, and its stimulus to our educational institutions to train and turn out a large body of foresters, which created the present wide interest in forestry and brought the efforts of other agencies into successful play. I do not mean in any way to overlook the splendid work of certain individual states like Pennsylvania and New York, which dates back many years. But that was localized in a few states. It required the nation itself to set in motion a national move-

¹MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

¹Address delivered at the Fifth National Conservation Congress, Washington, D. C., November 19, 1913.